

COMPARISON BETWEEN TRADITIONAL JAVANESE ROOM ARRANGEMENT AND PRODUCTIVE HOUSES ROOM ARRANGEMENTS IN KAUMAN, PEKALONGAN – CENTRAL JAVA

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Abstract

House is a basic need for every human being besides food and clothing. A house itself is physically formed by a cluster of rooms, arranged according to the activities zones in it (such as public zone, semi-public zone, private zone and service zone). Social, economic and cultural conditions bring about changes in residential houses from time to time. Indonesia, a country of 33 provinces and lots of cultural heritages, has many different traditional houses. Each traditional house has its own unique characteristics.

Pekalongan is a city located on the North Coast of Java Island, Central Java province. It is 108 years old and is known as Batik Town. Kauman is one area in Pekalongan that is officially designated as Batik Tourism village, since the locals of Kauman have been Batik artisans for many generations. The residential area in Kauman (which has dual functions: for residential purpose and business purpose) is observed and evaluated. From the evaluation the comparison of room arrangements between the original Javanese traditional house and the productive houses of Kauman is visible. The focus of this study is on houses that have the dual functions, both as a place of residence and as a place of business (usually termed “productive house”).

The comparison of room arrangements is observed through direct observation and visual recording of Kauman, Pekalongan. This is a qualitative study. Data from observation is primary data, which is later evaluated based on Pekalongan Javanese traditional house philosophy. The result of the evaluation is in the form of description. Further research may use this study as a reference.

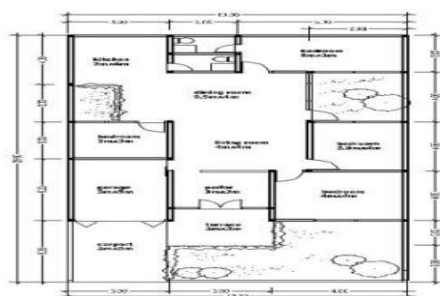
Keywords: comparison, Pekalongan & Javanese traditional house, Kauman-Pekalongan

1. INTRODUCTION

House, food and clothing are three most basic human needs. A cluster of rooms with different functions and characteristics forms up a house. The following rooms are normally found in a house:

- Porch: functioning as a public room used by both householders and guests
- Living room: has the same functions as porch
- Family room and dining room: semi-private rooms used only by householders
- Bedroom: private room
- Other rooms, such as kitchen and parking area.

The following sketch illustrates a typical house layout and the names of each room:



Picture 1. House Layout Sketch

Source: <http://www.modeliv.com> – downloaded on 19102014

2. HOUSE

House is a product that progresses from time to time due to the changes in its occupants' social, economic and cultural conditions. Turner, FC John (quoted in Silas, Johan 2000) argues that a house is never a complete product since it perpetually changes following the changes taking place in its occupants. According to Doxiadis theory (quoted in Kuswanto, Tjuk; 2005), a house that functions as a residence is categorized as a shell. Related to build environment, doxiadis theory argues that there are other important elements such as: nature, human (population), community and network. Besides functioning as a place of residence, a house also functions as a place for self-development and for economic investment. These functions, along with the changes in social, economic and cultural conditions, cause adjustments in its room arrangement. There are two ways to adjust room arrangement according to Turner, FC John (Silas, Johan 2000): (1) housing adjustment, in which additional rooms are added to the house or (2) housing adaptation, in which occupants/householders adjust to the condition of the house. These two forms of adjustments take place in the productive houses of Kauman, Pekalongan.

2.1. Houses in Pekalongan



Picture, Picture 6, Picture 7

Picture 5, 6, 7. Kauman – Pekalongan

Source: Personal Documentation

Pekalongan is located in Central Java Province, between Cirebon and Semarang. It is 134km from Cirebon and 103km from Semarang. Pekalongan is officially 836 km² in size and has 19 districts and 283 urban communities (*kelurahan* in Indonesian). Pekalongan as a city is divided into four administrative areas: North Pekalongan, East Pekalongan, West Pekalongan and South Pekalongan. Below are some geographical pictures of Pekalongan:



Picture 2. Pekalongan in Central Java

Picture 3. Pekalongan City

Source: google maps – downloaded on 051213

Source: google maps – downloaded on 081213

Pekalongan is one of the coastal cities on Central Java's north coast. In 2014, Pekalongan was 392 years old (founded in August 25 1622). Pekalongan has the title Batik Town because batik making and trading activities have existed since the 18th century. The following is a picture of Kauman area:



Picture 4. Kauman Village Gate, Pekalongan

Source: Personal Documentation

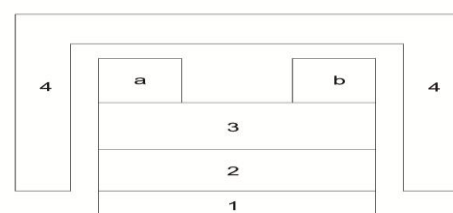


Picture 8, Picture 9

Picture 10, Picture 11

Picture 8, 9, 10, 11 House Facades in Kauman – Pekalongan

Source: Personal Documentation



Pictures 8, 9, 10 and 11 show facades of some houses in Kauman. Picture 8 and picture 10 shows the front door of a house with three symmetrical parts, each having two outer

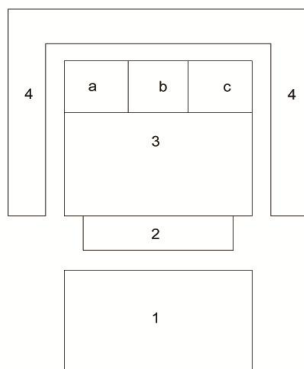
door leaves and two inner door leaves. Picture 11 shows a relatively new building with symmetric shape despite having windows on its sides. Since most residents in Kauman are Muslims, the Islamic philosophy is visible in how houses are built. For instance, balance in façade relates to a balanced relationship between the world and the Creator. Inner and outer door leaves signifies that life giving and receiving have to be balanced in life. Like in picture 9, some houses have five-stepped stairs in front of the main door, signifying the five pillars of Islam (Belief, Worship, Fasting, Almsgiving, and Pilgrimage). The following illustrates traditional Pekalongan house layout:

2.2. Javanese Traditional House

Various studies and research on Javanese traditional houses claim that Javanese traditional houses can be categorized vertically and horizontally. Vertically, there are three parts of a Javanese traditional house: lower part, middle part and upper part. Those three parts have seven Javanese names: foundation, *bebatur*, *saka guru*, *sunduk kili*, *tumpang sari*, *ander dan mala*. Horizontally, zones of rooms in a Javanese traditional house have three parts as well: front, middle and back. The front of the house is called *pendopo* (1) and *pringgitan* (2), both functioning as a place to receive guests. The middle part is called *Omah Njero* (3), functioning as a living room that has middle *senthong*, right *senthong* and left *senthong*. Middle *senthong* is a sacred place, right *senthong* is for the owner of the house and left *senthong* is for valuables. The middle part of the house is surrounded by left *gandhok* and right *gandhok*, where bedrooms for both men and women of the family are. The back of the house is called *gadri*, *pawon* and *pekiwan*, functioning as service area. Below are pictures showing traditional Javanese house zoning:

House Of The Nobility:

- [1]. Pendopo
- [2]. Pringgitan
- [3]. Omah Njero
- [4]. Senthong kiwa
- [5]. Senthong Tengah
- [6]. Senthong Tengen
- [7]. Gandhok



Picture 12. Javanese House Zoning (Nobility)

Source: [http:// www.hdesignideas.com](http://www.hdesignideas.com)- downloaded on 19102014

Pekalongan Traditional House:

[1].	Porch
[2].	Pringgitan
[3].	Omah Njero
[4].	Senthong Kiwa
[5].	Senthong Tengen
[6].	Gandhok

Picture 13. Pekalongan Traditional House Zoning

Source: Personal Documentation

2.3. Javanese Traditional House Compared to Pekalongan Traditional House

Picture 12 shows that Javanese traditional house has a *pendopo* as a place to receive guests, whereas Pekalongan traditional house only has a front porch. The reason is because Javanese traditional house is a place of residence for nobilities, while Pekalongan traditional house is not. The nobility house (Javanese traditional house) has an area called *pringgitan* as a porch used exclusively for the family of the nobility. The next part – the *omah njero* – in the nobility house has three rooms (*kiwa*, *tengah* and *tengen*), whereas Pekalongan house only has two rooms (*kiwa* and *tengen*). This part of the house is where valuables and sacred objects are kept, as well as where the master bedroom (for the head of the household) is. The *gandhok* surrounding the middle part is where the children bedrooms are. The back of the house is where kitchen, bathrooms and other service-related rooms are found. The hierarchy of father and son is visible through the zoning division (*omah njero* and *gandhok*). Service-related rooms (such as kitchen and bathrooms) are also located at the back of the house (the least in the hierarchy). Overall, the zoning divisions of both Javanese traditional house (nobility) and Pekalongan traditional house (commoner) are similar. They both have three zones (front, middle and back) with a main difference in the existence of *pendopo* in the Javanese traditional house.

2.4. Productive House in Kauman - Pekalongan

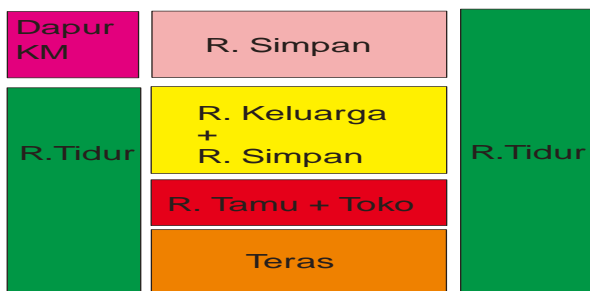
Kauman, located in East Pekalongan is an area officially designated as a Batik Tourism Village. Its visitors (both local and foreign) can buy various batik products sold in locals' houses. The products sold in Kauman are not produced only in Kauman, but also other places. Residents of Kauman use their houses to sell batik. This activity has been going on for generations. A house that functions both as a place of residence and as a place to produce and distribute batik is called a productive house. The following are five zoning models of productive houses in Kauman, Pekalongan:



Picture 14. Productive House Zones

Source: Personal Documentation

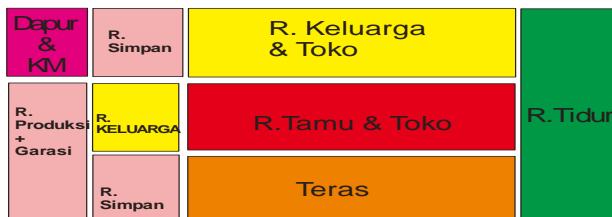
Batik Faza



Picture 15. Productive House Zones

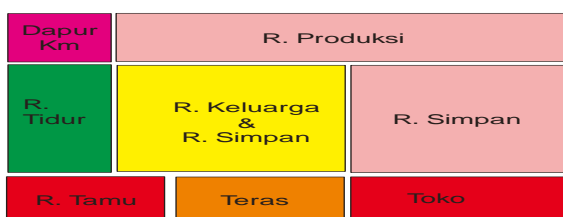
Source: Personal Documentation

Batik Falma



Picture 16. Productive House Zones

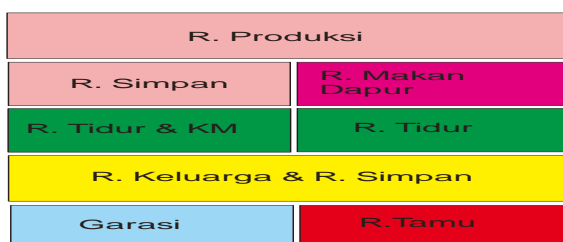
Source: Personal Documentation Batik Mufti



Picture 17. Productive House Zones

Source: Personal Documentation

Batik Rizka



Picture 18. Productive House Zones Source: Personal Documentation BatikBella




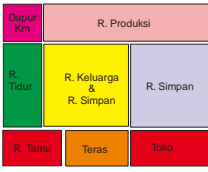
3. COMPARISON

Indonesian Language Official Dictionary defines the word “comparison” as comparing the difference between one object and another. Comparing two different objects, comparing two unrelated objects or comparing an object before and after a certain treatment are some ways of conducting comparative research. The English word “comparative” is closely related to comparison as well. Based on the above definitions, this study defines the word “comparison” as: comparison in form (function) of room arrangements/zoning in their relation to Pekalongan traditional house and productive house.

Pekalongan Traditional House As Opposed to Kauman Productive House:

Table 1. Comparison Between Traditional and Prod Home in Kauman, Pekalongan – Central Java

Pekalongan Traditional House	Kauman Productive House	Zones/ Rooms That Do Not Change	Zones/ Rooms That Change
	Batik Faza 	Porch Living Room Room Bedrm Bathrm Kitchen	Family Room Bedrms Production Room
	Batik Falma 	Porch Living Room Room Bedrm Bathrm Kitchen	Family Room Bedrms Living Room
	Batik Mufti 	Porch Living Room Room Bedrm Bathrm Kitchen	Family Room Bedrms Living Room

	Batik Rizka 	Porch Living Room Bedrm Bathrm Kitchen	Family Room Bedrms Production Room
	Batik Bella 	Porch Living Room Bedrm Bathroom Kitchen	Family Room Bedrms Production Room

Batik Faza: Family room has dual functions, bedrooms have changed into storage and parking area, production room is added at the back of the house.

Batik Falma: Living room has dual functions, family room has dual functions.

Batik Mufti: Living and family rooms have dual functions, bedrooms are functionally adjusted for production purposes.

Batik Rizka: Family room has dual functions, room arrangements are adjusted to production and distribution needs.

Batik Bella: Family room has dual functions, room arrangements are adjusted to production and distribution needs.

4. CONCLUSION

After observing the Pekalongan traditional house and Kauman productive house, there are several changes in room arrangements/zones. Some rooms have additional functions; others are incorporated functionally with other rooms, especially family room. Family room has also become storage (Batik Faza, Batik Falma, Batik Rizka, Batik Bella) and shop (Batik Mufti). Living room has also changed its function into shop in Batik Mufti and Batik Falma). Changes, additions and incorporations of functions are the transformation processes taking place in these houses due to the increasing production and distribution activities. Family room and living room are multifunctional rooms that can readily be adjusted according to the owner's needs. Householders of productive houses in Kauman adapt well to the zoning changes.

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